

Mr. Speaker, February 14 marked the start of the Lunar New Year, a holiday celebrated by Asian and Asian Americans around the world. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the rich history and contributions that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made to our country.

For the last 13 years, I've had the pleasure of representing the largest Vietnamese population in the world out of Vietnam, which is right in Orange County, California. Every year, the Union of Vietnamese Student Associations of Southern California organizes the Orange County Tet Festival, which celebrates the Lunar New Year with an array of traditional foods, ceremonies and customs.

This year, we celebrate the Year of the Tiger, known for their courage and optimism and fearless leadership. Those are the qualities of the tiger, and all of my constituents have demonstrated them in overcoming the enormous challenges that are facing our economy.

Again, it is a great honor to represent the Vietnamese community in Orange County, and I look forward to wishing them a great new year.